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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/027,963	10/25/2001	Helmut Windl	071308.0415	1435

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EXAMINER

HANNE, SARA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/027,963

Applicant(s)

WINDL ET AL.

Examiner

Sara M Hanne

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the amendment received on January 24, 2005. Claims 1-2, 6-9 and 13-14 have been amended. Claims 1-15 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1 and 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hocker et al., US Patent 5754179, hereinafter Hocker.

As in Claims 1 and 8, Hocker teaches computer program method and apparatus to drive a processor with a graphics display device comprising displaying selectable images representative of the modules (Col. 3, lines 18-21), automatically visually indicating (Col. 1, line 64- Col. 2, line 4), immediately upon selection of a module (Col. 3, lines 46 et seq.), all receiving locations (icons 262) with which the module is capable of being associated (Col. 3, lines 27-31) wherein the selection of the module triggers the indication of all receiving locations to facilitate the user's relation of the selected module with the assisted location (Col. 2, lines 45-46).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hocker et al., US Patent 5754179, hereinafter Hocker, and further in view of Möhler et al., US Patent 6681138, herinafter Möhler.

As to claims 2 and 9, Hocker teaches a rack (Figure 2, ref. 261, "set of displayed icons") with slots (Figure 2, ref. 262, "drop sites") as well as a method for indicating receiving locations with which a selected module is capable of being associated with (See Claim 1, *supra*). While Hocker teaches indicating slots in automation equipment capable of receiving a selected module, they fail to show the modules being electronic components capable of being plugged into slots as recited in claims 2 and 9. In the same field of the invention, Möhler teaches an automation equipment controlled interface similar to that of Hocker. In addition, Möhler further teaches modules being electronic components (technical equipment B1 ... Bm) plugged into (by terminal connections) their respective slots (Column 5, lines 36-53). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hocker and Möhler before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the automation control equipment with corresponding receiving location indications taught by Hocker to include the electronic components and "plugging" of Möhler, in order to obtain physical facilitation of the

interface with electronic connections. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because component connection control interface would have been obtained, as taught by Möhler.

As in Claims 3 and 10, Hocker teaches the associations to be based on the modules' characteristics (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.).

As in Claims 4 and 11, Hocker teaches the associations to be based on the modules' architecture (Col. 2, lines 10 et seq.).

As in Claims 5 and 12, Hocker teaches indicating a slot is associated with a module is done modifying the graphical representation of the slot (Col. 3, lines 28-29, Col. 4, lines 42-44).

As in Claims 6 and 13, Hocker teaches relating the module with a slot is done by a drag and drop procedure (Col. 1, lines 64-67, Col. 3, lines 37-44).

As in Claims 7 and 14, While Hocker teaches indicating slots in automation equipment capable of receiving a selected module, they fail to show the modules being electronic components capable of being plugged into slots as recited in claims 2 and 9. In the same field of the invention, Möhler teaches an automation equipment controlled interface similar to that of Hocker. In addition, Möhler further teaches modules being electronic components (technical equipment B1 ... Bm) plugged into (by terminal connections) their respective slots (Column 5, lines 36-53) and depicting the respective spatial appearances of the rack and the module relocated in the rack (Figure 3 with corresponding text). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hocker and Möhler before him at the time the invention was

made, to modify the automation control equipment with corresponding receiving location indications taught by Hocker to include the electronic components and "plugging" of visually updating the drop operation onscreen Möhler, in order to obtain physical facilitation of the interface with electronic connections. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because component connection control interface would have been obtained, as taught by Möhler.

6. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hocker et al., US Patent 5754179, hereinafter Hocker, and further in view of Kung et al., US Patent 5742286, hereinafter Kung.

Hocker teaches the automation equipment to include a rack (Figure 2, ref. 261, "set of displayed icons") with slots (Figure 2, ref. 262, "drop sites") as well as a method for indicating receiving locations with which a selected module is capable of being associated with (See Claim 1, *supra*) and a network connection (Col. 3, lines 33-36). While Hocker teaches indicating slots in automation equipment capable of receiving a selected module, they fail to show the use of a display for the modules from downloaded information through the Internet as recited in Claim 15. In the same field of the invention, Kung teaches an automation equipment controlled interface with a visual indication for compatible reception locations similar to that of Hocker. In addition, Kung further teaches a display for the modules from information downloaded through the Internet ("appropriate communication protocols such as TCP/IP, Ethernet, ... one of the computer will serve as a station for a network administrator from which he or she

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manages the net", Column 5, lines 2-17). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Hocker and Kung before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the automation control system with receiving location indications taught by Hocker to include the downloading of information about the systems of Kung, in order to obtain an interface for controlling the system over the Internet. One would have been motivated to make such a combination because a way to remotely control the system would have been obtained, as taught by Kung.

Response to Amendment

Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

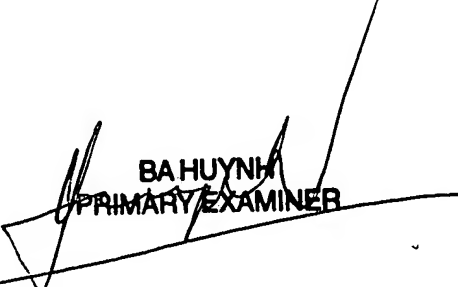
The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach similar drag and drop control interfaces and component connections.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sara M Hanne whose telephone number is (703) 305-0703. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30am-4:00pm, off on alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather R Herndon can be reached on (703) 308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smh


BA HUYNH
PRIMARY EXAMINER